



# MFC News

*Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926*

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# EARTH DAY

is



# EVERYDAY

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

## Recycling Facts

- By simply recycling one aluminum can, you are saving enough energy to watch a TV for three hours. Recycling one glass bottle is enough to light a traditional light bulb for four hours.
- We use more than 80 billion aluminum soda cans every year. It takes 90 percent less energy to recycle aluminum cans than to make new ones.
- Recycling every newspaper would save about 250 million trees each year. Unfortunately, only 27 percent of all American newspapers are recycled.
- The average individual throws away approximately four pounds of garbage every day and uses about 12,000 gallons of water every year.

### Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. E-mail articles and photos to [lharris@mfc.state.ms.us](mailto:lharris@mfc.state.ms.us).

# Earth Day

By Lauren Himiak

Earth Day symbol  
Happy Earth Day! You may notice people sporting a little more blue and green in their attire today. Perhaps you'll spot others picking up trash that is not theirs. No matter what, Earth Day is important day to recognize. Not sure what it means to you? Don't worry – There is still time to learn more about it and find activities in your area.

### History

Earth Day was created to raise awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. It occurs annually in both hemispheres – in the spring in the northern hemisphere and during the fall in the southern hemisphere. In the United States, we celebrate it during a special time - National Parks Week. But when did it start?

Thanks to one man, U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, we celebrate Earth Day. He believed that the state of the environment was not considered an important issue in politics and decided to go straight to the boss. In 1963, Senator Nelson asked President Kennedy to go on a nationwide tour promoting the environment. The President liked the idea and went on a five-day conservation tour that fall. Though the tour was labeled as unsuccessful

by many, it did set the stage for Earth Day.

In September 1969, during a conference in Seattle, Washington, Senator Nelson made an announcement that in the following spring (1970), there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on the environment. The date April 22 was chosen because Senator Nelson was looking for a date that would be popular on college campuses for an environmental teach-in. This time, the papers promoted the campaign and more than 20 million people participated.

Senator Nelson went on to serve ten years in the Wisconsin Senate and was twice elected Governor of the State of Wisconsin. As founder of Earth Day, he created a movement and helped pave the way for such important acts as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

### What You Can Do

As you're already aware, environmental issues are gaining popularity and momentum in today's world. Issues of global climate change, pollution, waste control, and reusable energy are now so important, there are hundreds of organizations dedicated to raise awareness and find solutions. Earth Day helps to

serve as a reminder that there's a surplus of things we can do every single day to help our planet. Here are just a few ideas:

### Energy Tips

- Turn off appliances when you're not home.
- Only use a microwave to cook small meals.
- Use Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs to increase energy efficacy and cut back on pollution.
- Always stay up to date on air conditioning and refrigeration maintenance. Less leaks mean less energy.
- Look for co-workers to commute with. If you work closely, think about riding a bike or walking to work.

### Water Tips

- Don't let water run when brushing teeth or shaving.
- Take short showers rather than baths.
- Store drinking water in the fridge rather than running a faucet until it is cold.
- Wash only full loads of laundry. This applies to dishwashers as well.
- If you set sprinklers for the lawn, make sure you're not wasting water on sidewalks.
- Repair all leaks as soon as they occur.

(Continued on page 14)

# Odds & Ends Forestry News

## Crocodiles Can Climb Trees, Study Finds.

Despite the fact they lack the physical adaptations of a climber, crocodiles can climb trees and do it regularly, a new study in Herpetology Notes finds. [More.](#)

## Keep Safety First When Cleaning Up Storm Debris. From NC Forest Service.

Recent winter storms felled trees and branches across North Carolina. The N.C. Forest Service encourages homeowners and others who prune trees or burn yard debris to use caution and follow some basic steps.

Although your trees may look severely damaged, restorative pruning and care may increase the chances of them regaining their original health and beauty. If the basic structure of your trees is intact, it may be in your best interest to save the tree. Tree topping is **not** a viable solution to storm-damage recovery or prevention. The sprouts that occur after topping are fast-growing, weakly attached branches that are more likely to break off in a future storm.

If you are concerned about the health of your trees, contact a certified arborist to assess tree health and structural integrity. Most tree work should be done only by those trained and

equipped to work safely in and around trees. Arborists are knowledgeable about the needs of trees and are trained and equipped to provide proper care.

People who choose to do their own cleanup after a storm should work with a partner, particularly when operating equipment such as chain saws. If you are not familiar with chain saws, consult a professional. If you choose to hire a local tree company, most will note their professional affiliation in their advertisement. To learn more about certified arborists in your area, visit The International Society of Arboriculture at [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com), the American Society of Consulting Arborists at [www.asca-consultants.org](http://www.asca-consultants.org), or the Tree Care Industry Association at [www.treecareindustry.org](http://www.treecareindustry.org).

Before the early 1900s, one in every four hardwood trees in North America's eastern forests was an American chestnut. [Keep reading.](#)

## Scientists in Connecticut are looking at how more wind equals stronger trees equals fewer power outages.

WNPR News. When a tree fails (that's scientific jargon for "falls down") and knocks out your power, you usually

have two concerns: when is my power coming back? When are they going to clean this mess up? But have you ever thought about why that tree fell?

[More.](#)

## Southern Pine Exports Up in 2013.

According to the Southern Forest Products Association, Southern Pine exports finished 2013 at a volume approaching 445 million board feet (MMbf), a jump of 13% above the 2012 export total, according to the latest trade data released by the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. That 2013 volume exported represents an increase of 43% above the 312 MMbf exported in 2010. The top three destinations for Southern Pine exports in 2013 were the Dominican Republic (69.9 MMbf), China (64.2 MMbf) and Mexico (60.7 MMbf).

## Storms reveal 7,500-year-old 'drowned forest' on north Galway coastline.

Parts of extensive forests dating back 7,500 years that once marked Ireland's Atlantic rim have been spectacularly exposed by the recent storms hitting the west coast. The powerful winds and pounding sea swell which stripped away layers of sand and stone shoreline have revealed patches of a "drowned" forest along the north Galway coastline. [More.](#)

## April's Birthdays



Jeff Ware -1  
Nathan Lidia -3  
James Daniel -8  
Michael Borden -9  
Sebastian Pope -9  
Matthew White -9  
Michael Goodwin -10  
Sonya Lofton -10  
Misty Sigler -11  
Roger Williamson -11  
Rudolph Morgan -13  
John Barber -14  
Joel Becton -14  
Stephen Ables -16  
Justin Gentry -16  
Pauline Johnson -16  
Guy Berry -18  
Harold Huhn -18  
Waylon Lindsay -20  
Patricia Sykes -20  
Travis Vanstory -21  
Terry Brown -22  
Thomas Faye -22  
Jeff McKenzie -25  
Stacy Simmons -25  
Kyle Whitaker -25  
Joyce Brumbaugh -27  
Duane Courtney -27  
Andrea Kirkwood -27  
Mallorej Swartz -28  
Jordi Card -29  
Clarence McDaniel -30  
Martha Moore -30



## Say Hello To Our



- 🌿 Michael Hoda, Forest Ranger, Hancock County, Southeast District
- 🌿 Jamie Denson, Forest Ranger, Hancock County, Southeast District
- 🌿 Brent Bretherick, Emergency Telecommunicator, Southeast District Office, Southeast District
- 🌿 John Butcher, Forest Ranger, Jackson County, Southeast District
- 🌿 Terry Burcham, Forest Ranger, Alcorn County, Northeast District
- 🌿 Donda Fischer, Emergency Telecommunicator, Southeast District Office, Southeast District
- 🌿 Darryl Byrd, Forest Ranger, Monroe County, Northeast District



- 🌿 John McMillian, Forest Ranger, Attala County, East Central District

April 2014



### Leaves:

**Type:** evergreen; 2 forms; 1) juvenile opposite in pairs, or ternate; 2) mature 4-ranked

**Size:** juvenile 0.25" long; mature 0.06" long

**Color:** juvenile light green; mature dark green with glandular dots (both turn brown end of 2nd winter)

**Characteristics:** juvenile awl-shaped, sharp-pointed, spiny to touch; mature shalelike, usually appressed

### Twigs:

**Size:** slender; terete or angled

**Color:** dark green; then reddish

**Surface:** covered by compact scale-like leaves

### Buds:

**Size:** minute

**Surface:** hidden by leaves

### Cones:

**Pollen Cones:** dioecious; minute; 0.13" long; 10-12 yellow-brown stamens

**Ovulate Cones:** dioecious; minute; globular; several purplish, fleshy scales, each with 1-2 basal ovules

**Mature Cones:**

**Size:** 0.25" dia.

**Shape:** ovoid

**Characteristics:** greenish

## Tree Knowledge - Who Am I?

blue with glaucous bloom (mature one season); fleshy, berrylike  
**Seed:** wingless; ovoid; sharp-pointed; 0.17" long

**Bark:** thin; reddish brown; fibrous; long, narrow strips; fluted trunks; buttressed at base

### Physical Attributes:

**Form:** single stem

**Size:** 50.0', mature

**Growth Rate:** slow; 25.0'

**Life Span:** moderate (>50 yrs)

**Life Span:** moderate (>50 yrs)

### Tolerances:

Shade: intermediate;

Drought: high;

Fire: low;

Anaerobic: low

**Propagation:** seed (cold stratification required); bare root; container; cuttings

**Other:** resprout/coppice potential

### Habitat and Ecology:

**Site:** found on wide variety of soils; best growth on light, calcareous loams; most abundant, however, on dry, shallow, rocky soils --- many times where nothing else will grow

**Soil Texture:** fine - coarse

**Soil pH:** 4.7 - 8.0

**Range:** eastern United States and southern Ontario; in Mississippi, throughout.

### Wildlife Value and Uses:

twigs and foliage eaten extensively by hoofed browsers; berries an important part of the diet of numerous birds and mammals, both large and small; important nesting cover for chipping sparrows, robins, song sparrows, and mockingbirds; roosting cover for juncos, myrtle warblers, sparrows of various kinds, and other birds; especially valuable as dense winter protective cover; widely used in shelterbelts and wildlife plantings.

### Timber Value and Uses:

close-grained, aromatic, and durable wood used for furniture, interior paneling, novelties, and fence posts; fruits and young branches contain aromatic oil used in medicines

### Landscaping Info:

often used as ornamentals for their evergreen foliage; generally propagated by cuttings; seedlings ordinarily used as stock for grafting ornamental juniper clones; especially well adapted to dry Areas.

**Other Facts:** symbolizes the tree of life for numerous Native American tribes; used as incense in rituals and burned in sweat lodges and in purification.

(Continued on page 5)

## Regional Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector

From MFA VOF Online March 2014.

CFA, and helped established the rapidly growing Benton CFA.

The Tree Farm National Leadership Conference was held February 18-20, in Savannah, GA. Several members of the Mississippi Tree Farm Committee attended the conference where they participated in sessions covering topics ranging from Grasstops Advocacy to Increasing Woodland Owner Impact.

Justin Dewberry, 2012 & 2013 Mississippi Tree Farm Inspector of the Year, was honored at the conference by being named the 2014 Regional Outstanding Inspector of the Year for the Southern Region.

In 2012 and 2013 combined, Dewberry certified 85 new Tree Farms. Dewberry is an active member of MFA, Marshall



## Tree Knowledge - Who Am I?

(Continued from page 4, Tree Knowledge - Who Am I?)

cation rites; used teas, ointments, and liniments made from the leaves, berries, and roots and combinations of them to treat arthritis and rheumatism, coughing; colds, fevers, tonsillitis, and pneumonia; also used as a sedative for hyperactivity, and to speed delivery during childbirth; wood utilized for lance shafts, bows, and other items; red cedar flutes were highly regarded by the Cheyenne; cedar boughs were used for bedding; Menomini wove mats of cedar bark used for roofing temporary structures, for partitions, floor mats and wrappings; wood used in the construction of lodges, totems, and war canoes by Native Americans of the northwest coast.

The young leafy twigs of the ????? were officially listed in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia from 1820 to 1894 as a diuretic (Kindscher 1992). The distilled oil of the ???? has been officially listed as a reagent in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia since 1916.

Who Am I?

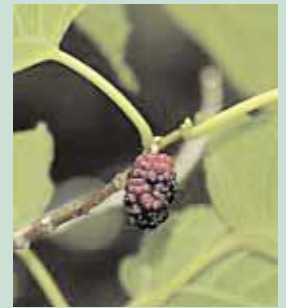


## Tree Knowledge - Who Am I?

March 2014 was the Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra* L.). Check out page 219 in the Mississippi Trees book.



Leaf



Fruit



Bark



Flower



Twig

## More Recycling Facts

- ♻️ Recycled paper uses 64 percent less energy than making paper from virgin wood pulp and can save many trees. Every ton of recycled paper saves 17 trees.
- ♻️ Approximately 1-billion-trees worth of paper is thrown away every year in the U.S.
- ♻️ Half a million trees must be cut down to produce each week's Sunday newspapers.
- ♻️ Every year, 14 billion pounds of trash is dumped into the oceans. Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1 million sea creatures every year.
- ♻️ The amount of wood and paper thrown away annually is enough to heat 50 million homes for 20 years.
- ♻️ We use seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about 2 billion trees per year!



## 7 Events That Changed American Forestry Forever

By Steve Nix.

There was no organized program to manage and protect United States' forests before 1875. No organization existed to champion fledgling forestry efforts being developed to save and manage American forests. There was no government oversight for vast stretches of American trees and no fire protection. Not one professional forester was trained in the United States. All that was about to change...

### #1 - 1886 - The Establishment of the Division of Forestry

The United States Division of Forestry hired many of the first foresters to be employed in North America. This federal agency was developed to provide data and information which was desperately needed to develop federal forest policy. German educated Bernhard Fernow became the first professional forester to become Chief of the Division of Forestry. The Division of Forestry managed no forests.

### #2 - 1875 - The American Forestry Association Created

Organizing the American Forestry Association in 1875 started forward momentum in forestry that pushed a major forest conservation movement into the 20th Century. There was no orga-

nized effort to support forestry and forests before the AFA.

### #3 - 1891 - The First Timberland Reserve

In 1891, the U.S. Congress amended government land laws to allow the President authority to reserve forest lands of the public domain in any state or territory. President William Henry Harrison created the first reservation on March 30, 1891. It was called the Yellowstone Park Timberland Reserve.

### #4 - 1898 - The First College Forestry Curriculum

Although the "Cradle of Forestry" and America's first forestry school was established by Carl Alwen Schenck on George Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate property near Asheville, North Carolina, it was not credentialed by a major university. Cornell University established the first college level forestry school in the Western Hemisphere in 1898.

### #5 - 1911 - The First National Forests

The United States of America owned no national forests before the Weeks Law of 1911 was enacted. A new policy was established that national forests could be purchased and state-federal cooperation was initiated in an effort to protect lands and forests from wildfire.

### #6 - 1924 - Timber Production and Fire Protection Encouraged

The Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 made it easier for the Forest Service to buy national forests from willing sellers within predetermined American forests and grasslands. The Secretary of Agriculture (who oversees the Forest Service) was given legal responsibility to work cooperatively with State officials for better forest protection and to provide for continuous production of timber. These laws also gave a strong impetus to States to establish and support State forestry agencies. All 50 states now have a State Forestry Agency or forestry extension agency.

### #7 - 1933 - Civilian Conservation Corps

The Civilian Conservation Corps or CCC was an unemployment relief program for young men from unemployed families. The program was authorized by Congress and established on March 19, 1933 by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In addition to providing a paycheck during the depression, the effort publicized the need for forest conservation and left major forest improvements and buildings that survive on state and federal forests today.

# Forestry Land Trends In The U. S.

By Steve Nix.

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program of the U.S. Forest Service collects forest facts needed to assess America's forests. FIA coordinates the only continuous national forest census.

This particular collection of forest data started in 1950 and is used to project how forests are likely to appear in 10 to 50 years. This forest data also provides a fascinating view of our forests from a historical perspective.

## #1. U. S. Forest Area Stabilized.

Since 1900, forest area in the U.S. has remained statistically within 745 million acres +/-5% with the lowest point in 1920 of 735 million acres. U.S. forest area in 2000 was about 749 million acres. Source: National Report on Forest Resources.

## #2. Forest Area By U. S. Region.

Original forests in what is now the U.S. totaled about 1.05 billion acres (including what is now the State of AK and HI). Clearing of forest land in the East between 1850 and 1900 averaged 13 square miles every day for 50 years; the most prolific period of forest clearing in U.S. history.

This coincides with one of the most prolific periods of U.S. immigration. Currently, forests cover about 749 million acres of the U.S. or about 33 percent of all land. Source: National Report on Forest Resources.

## #3. U.S. Forest Ownership Acres Stable.

The acreage of all private and public forests have remained the same over the last half century. The area of productive unreserved forest and (timberland) has remained stable for the last 50 years. The reserved (timberlands where cutting is not allowed) are actually increasing.

Source: National Report on Forest Resources.

## #4. Forest Trees in U.S Getting Larger.

As forests mature the average number of small trees tends to decline due to natural competition and the number of large trees increases. This pattern is evident in the U.S. over the past 25 years, although it may vary by region and historic conditions such as harvesting and catastrophic events such as fire. There are currently nearly 300 billion trees at least 1-inch in diameter in the U.S. Source: National Report on Forest Resources.

## #5. Forest Trees in U.S Growing in Volume.

Tree volumes since 1950 have increased and most importantly not dropped. The U.S. now grows more wood, in the form of living trees, than in the last 60 years. Total volume of net growth has slowed in recent years but still ahead of tree volume being cut. Removals have also stabilized but imports are on the rise. While total tree death, called mortality, is up, the rate of mortality as percent of live volume is stable. Source: National Report on Forest Resources.

## #6. Private U.S. Tree Owners Supply the World.

As public policy has shifted, tree cutting (removals) has moved dramatically from public land in the West to private land in the East in the last 15 years. This commercial forest, America's tree farm, is the major supplier of wood in the United States. Most of these tree farms are located in the east and continue to increase both growth and resulting product.



## Camp Tax Proposal Detrimental To Forests

Submitted by MFA.

According to the AFF, the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) recently released a discussion draft of a tax reform bill that would make significant changes to our tax code. While the proposal is not likely to move in 2014, it sets the stage for tax reform efforts in coming years. While there are a few forest benefits, many of the proposed changes would be damaging to family forest owners and long-term, sustainable forest management. A few pieces of the proposal impacting forests include:

- Repeals reforestation tax deduction.
- Repeals the special treatment of income from timber harvesting as a capital gain.
- Continues to allow forest owners with an annual business of less than \$10 million to deduct forest management expenses in the year incurred instead of capitalizing their management costs.
- Makes the enhanced conservation easement incentives that expired at the end of 2013 permanent.

MFA will continue to monitor the draft and represent our members.

# Top Ten Forestry Advances

The Society of American Foresters (SAF), the national scientific and educational organization of the forestry profession, has compiled a "top ten" list of forestry-related advances in the United States over the past century.

According to the SAF, "the country has more trees now than it did in 1920 on approximately the same amount of forestland. It also has the largest legally protected wilderness system in the world, while at the same time sustaining a highly productive and efficient wood products industry."

Here is what the SAF says about the ten major advances:

**#1. Reforestation.** Until the 1920s, forests were generally logged and abandoned. Now, across the country an average of 1.7 billion seedlings are planted annually. That translates into 6 seedlings planted for every tree harvested. In addition, billions of additional seedlings are regenerated naturally.

**#2. Fire protection.** At the turn of the century, wildfires annually burned across 20 to 50 million acres of the country each year, with devastating loss of life and property. Through education, prevention, and control, that amount has been reduced to about 2 to 5 million acres a year — a reduction of 90% — while fire's contributions to forest health have also been studied and better understood.

**#3. Affordable products and reduction in waste.** Today, advanced technology allows us to use every part of the tree for products. In addition to

lumber and paper coming from the trunk of the tree, bark, resins, cellulose, scraps, and even sawdust are turned into products that range from camera cases to medicines to rugs.

**#4. The return of wildlife.** Species such as whitetail deer, wild turkeys, and wood ducks were almost extinct at the turn of the century. Wildlife conservation and habitat enhancement has resulted in flourishing populations of these and other species we now take almost for granted. Now, foresters are working with other professionals to improve habitats and ensure survival of other wildlife species.

**#5. Wilderness protection.** America's first wilderness areas were established by the U.S. Forest Service in the 1920s. Forty years later, the Wilderness Act of 1964 gave legal protection to 9 million acres of wilderness. There are now 95 million acres in the wilderness system, and 149 million more acres of land in parks, wildlife refuges, and other special, set-aside places. No other country in the world comes close to this amount of legally designated set-aside land.

**#6. Urban forestry.** Municipal ordinances, civic participation, and the growth of urban forestry have resulted in the planting and maintenance of millions of trees in our country's cities and towns, enhancing quality of life while saving energy costs and usage.

**#7. Research.** Decisions made about U.S. forests a century ago were based on what worked in Europe. Since then, forest scientists in the United States have conducted research to control insect and disease,

improve growth rates, enhance soil and water conditions, and to understand other variables that have made our forests among the most productive, sustainable, and healthy in the world.

**#8. Satellite imagery and other technology.** Through such technology as satellite imagery, foresters can monitor the health of the forest, target management activities, map fire outbreak, and identify wildlife and fish habitat for protection.

**#9. Recreation.** An increasing population, the prevalence of the automobile and more leisure time have combined to increase demands for places to go for all types of recreation in a forest — hiking, birding, off-road vehicle riding, and much more. Visitor days (1 person for 12 hours) to federal sites alone totaled 600 million in 1989.

**#10. Professional education.** A century ago, there were no professional forestry schools in the United States. Now, the Society of American Foresters accredits 48 universities to offer specialized forestry education to their students. In addition, 24 institutions are recognized by SAF to offer two-year associates' degrees. Biology, math, computer science, communications, ethics, and other courses prepare students to deal with the art and science of caring for the forest.



# Earth Day

By Larry West

Earth Day is the name given to two different annual observances that are intended to raise awareness about a wide range of environmental issues and problems, and to inspire people to take personal action to address them.

Except for that general goal, the two events are unrelated, even though both were founded about a month apart in 1970 and both have gained wider acceptance and popularity ever since.

## The First Earth Day

In the United States, Earth Day is celebrated by most people on April 22, but there is another celebration that pre-dates that one by approximately a month and is celebrated internationally.

The first Earth Day celebration took place on March 21, 1970, the vernal equinox that year. It was the brainchild of John McConnell, a newspaper publisher and influential community activist, who proposed the idea of a global holiday called Earth Day at a UNESCO Conference on the Environment in 1969.

McConnell suggested an annual observance to remind the people of Earth of their shared responsibility as environmental stewards. He chose the vernal equinox—the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere, the first day of autumn in the southern hemisphere—because it is a day of renewal.

At the vernal equinox (always March 20 or March 21), night and day are the same length everywhere on Earth. McConnell believed that Earth Day should be a time of equilibrium when people could put aside their differences

and recognize their common need to preserve Earth's resources.

On February 26, 1971, U.N. Secretary-General U Thant signed a proclamation saying that the United Nations would celebrate Earth Day annually on the vernal equinox, thereby officially establishing the March date as the international Earth Day.

In his Earth Day statement on March 21, 1971, U Thant said, "May there only be peaceful and cheerful Earth Days to come for our beautiful Spaceship Earth as it continues to spin and circle in frigid space with its warm and fragile cargo of animate life." The United Nations continues to celebrate Earth Day each year by ringing the Peace Bell at U.N. headquarters in New York at the precise moment of the vernal equinox.

## The History of Earth Day in America

On April 22, 1970, the Environmental Teach-In held a nationwide day of environmental education and activism that it called Earth Day. The event was inspired and organized by environmental activist and U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin. Nelson wanted to show other U.S. politicians that there was widespread public support for a political agenda centered on environmental issues.

Nelson began organizing the event from his Senate office, assigning two staff members to work on it, but soon more space and more people were needed. John Gardner, founder of Common Cause, donated office space. Nelson selected Denis Hayes, a Harvard University student, to coordinate Earth Day activities and gave him a staff of volunteer college students to help.

The event was wildly successful, sparking Earth Day celebrations at thou-

sands of colleges, universities, schools and communities all across the United States. An October 1993 article in American Heritage Magazine proclaimed, "...April 22, 1970, Earth Day was...one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy... 20 million people demonstrated their support... American politics and public policy would never be the same again."

Following the Earth Day celebration inspired by Nelson, which demonstrated widespread grassroots support for environmental legislation, Congress passed many important environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, as well as laws to protect wilderness areas. The Environmental Protection Agency was created within three years after Earth Day 1970.

In 1995, Nelson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton for his role in founding Earth Day, raising awareness of environmental issues, and promoting environmental action.

## The Importance of Earth Day Now

No matter when you celebrate Earth Day, its message about the personal responsibility we all share to "think globally and act locally" as environmental stewards of planet Earth has never been more timely or important.

Our planet is in crisis due to global warming, overpopulation, and other critical environmental issues. Every person on Earth shares the responsibility to do as much as they can to preserve the planet's finite natural resources today and for future generations.



## Mississippi Firewise Workshops

Firewise workshops are **FREE** events, however, **pre-registration is required**. Meals, refreshments and workshop materials will be provided. Firewise workshop and/or field days are a one-day event, bringing together citizens, business, and community leaders involved in planning, financing, building, sustaining, and protecting communities in the wildland/urban interface. This will be a learning experience and participants will learn about why homes burn, various wildland fuel reduction techniques, and how to assess the fire danger of their own home.

**Hancock County** - The Mississippi Forestry Commission, Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District are sponsoring a How To Have A Firewise Home event on **May 15, 2014** at the Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation Office in Kiln, MS. Pre-registration is needed by May 1, 2014 to get a head count for the meal. Please call (228) 255-3255 or (228) 395-1503 or stop by the Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District Office at 18335 Highway 603N, Kiln, Mississippi for more information. [Click here](#) for a Introduction Letter, Agenda and Pre- registration form.

The above Firewise events are approximately half a day in length and covers the basics principles of Firewise in Mississippi. The following CFE/CEU/CLE are given for these events: Registered Forester, 2 hrs of category II; Certified Loggers, 2 hrs of category II; Realtors, 3 hrs Elective Real Estate Course, Approval Code 10181; Structural Firefighter, Certificate of Attendance, 2 hrs; credit is not available for Teachers and Professional Disciplines.

For more information on Firewise in Mississippi, contact Opie Blackwell at [lblackwell@mfc.state.ms.us](mailto:lblackwell@mfc.state.ms.us).

## 2014 Arbor Day Poster Contest



We invite 4th to 6th grade students to participate in the 28<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day/Earth Day Poster Contest. The contest is a fun and valuable way to learn about trees. This year the statewide contest theme was changed due to the fun fact that Arbor Day is also on February 14<sup>th</sup>,

Valentine's Day. You may select any educational material of your choice.

There will be prizes give for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Deadline to enter is April 30, 2014.

For more information, visit the Mississippi Urban Forest Council website at [www.msurbanforest.com](http://www.msurbanforest.com) or contact Donna Yowell at [dyowell@aol.com](mailto:dyowell@aol.com)



# Tympel Turner Joins Mississippi Forestry Commission



## OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2014

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### Tympel Turner Joins Mississippi Forestry Commission

Jackson, MS – Effective February 1, 2014, Tympel Turner joined the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) as the Northern Outreach Officer. Turner will be the main point of contact for all outreach and public information/education in the northern region of Mississippi. Part of her duties will also include urban and community forestry. This region primarily includes the Northwest District and Northeast District of the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

"Keeping the public and our partners updated on the wildfire situation, forest conditions, forest threats and available programs is very important to our mission," said Charlie Morgan, State Forester. "Outreach, education and public information is vital to promote and protect our state's natural resources."

Turner, a graduate of Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in forest management, is a registered forester in Mississippi and worked recently as an independent contractor with duties including inventory/procurement forester and petroleum landman for multiple companies in Mississippi.

In addition, Turner is also a graduate of the University of Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in general business. Her work history includes time with the MFC as a USDA FS Forest Inventory Analysis Forester before being promoted to the Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator. Turner has also been previously employed as an Independent Petroleum Landman for Beckett Oil and Gas and a Procurement Forester for Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

Please contact Turner at the information above for any outreach, information, media or urban needs in North Mississippi. You can find more information about our information and outreach department by visiting our website at [www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov) or by following the MFC on social media.

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# 2014 Teachers Conservation Workshops

MFA is now accepting registrations for the 2014 Teachers Conservation Workshops set for Jones County Junior College, June 8 - 13, and Northeast Mississippi Community College, June 22 - 27. This year will be the 51st year for these MFA-sponsored workshops. During the week educators are exposed to classroom instruction and activities, new educational materials, and numerous field trips including industries, harvesting operations, management practices, and nature trails. Participants learn by demonstration and practical exercises how relevant conservation practices can be integrated into classroom work and student projects. Participants also become certified in Project Learning Tree.



Please return [registration form](#) and fee to MFA, 620 N. State Street, Suite 201, Jackson, MS 39202. Questions? Email [epope@msforestry.net](mailto:epope@msforestry.net).



## The Overstory

College of Forest Resources  
Extension Forestry

**The Overstory**  
MSU Forestry Extension Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1, February 2014

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**From the Coordinator's Desk**

by James Henderson, Extension Specialist

Forestry Extension over the past several months has worked to increase our ability to get information to you as quickly as possible. Last year we started a Twitter account and a new Facebook page. These can be found at: [twitter.com/MSUExtForestry](https://twitter.com/MSUExtForestry), and [www.facebook.com/MississippiStateUniversityExtensionForestry](https://www.facebook.com/MississippiStateUniversityExtensionForestry). We realize not everyone uses Twitter and Facebook so last month we launched our new blog (web log) which is available at <http://blogs.msucare.com/forestry/>. This new website will be used to announce and post our latest forestry publications, all up coming short courses and workshops, price report updates, our newsletter, and occasional press releases on topics important to forestry clientele such as cost share programs and invasive species alerts. Our goal is to keep you informed and these new internet tools will help us greatly. A fantastic feature of the new blog is the option for you to receive alerts via email whenever something new is posted. For example, when the quarterly price report is posted to the blog you will receive an email letting you know. Going to the blog and entering your email address will keep you as informed and as current as possible. Please visit the blog and sign up for email alerts today. Of course our website at [msucare.com/forestry](http://msucare.com/forestry) will continue to be a great source of information on a host of forestry topics. Yet, our new Forestry Extension blog will be a means to keep you up to date on all the latest events and information. On a final note, thanks to everyone who completed The Overstory Readership Survey in January. We did our best to address your comments. For example, each issue will now incorporate a variety of topics instead of a theme. We hope you enjoy the new Overstory Newsletter.

**Feature Article**

**Shortleaf, the Forgotten Pine**

by John Kushle, Extension Specialist

Loblolly pine is the premier pine species planted in the United States. When plantation forestry began in earnest during the mid-twentieth century nursery production for reforestation grew with it. In the search for a widely acceptable pine species to plant, loblolly pine with its fast early growth rate and high adaptability won the contest. Yet in the shadow of this impressive species, there is a related southern pine that has an even greater natural range than loblolly, with virtually identical wood characteristics. This is the shortleaf pine, *Pinus echinata*, which is native throughout most of Mississippi. Within its natural range, this species performs best in northern Louisiana, Arkansas, and the southern Piedmont. Its wood has been used for pulp and paper, construction lumber, bridge timbers, framing on doors and windows, and veneer in plywood. Shortleaf has a needle length of 2.5-4 inches usually in clusters of 2, and cones about 2 inches long which tend to be persistent, often remaining on the tree after seedfall. Littleleaf is the most damaging disease to shortleaf, and is caused by a root pathogen, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. It occurs most often on wetter sites. Shortleaf is more resistant than loblolly or slash pine to fusiform rust, perhaps the most damaging disease of southern pines. The very extensive range of shortleaf makes it a viable choice for natural stand or plantation management in northern Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. This pine has the most resilience to ice of the southern yellow pines, and mature stands can withstand ground fire, though young stands are susceptible. Shortleaf pine will grow on drier, more infertile sites, due to its extensive root system, and among southern pines, it is uniquely capable of sprouting at young ages. It can also tolerate growing in very dense stands, responds to vegetation and herbaceous weed control, as well as thinning even as mature trees. Shortleaf has the potential for tree improvement through genetic research, although silvicultural and genetic research has been very limited. At early ages, shortleaf has a smaller seedling and slower growth rate as it develops its root system. However, shortleaf is capable of maintaining an extended growth period, and as a result is capable of producing a high quality sawlog. Since sawtimber production is the goal for southern forest landowners, shortleaf pine should be added back to the list for consideration in new plantings.

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NEW!

See our blog at

[www.blogs.msucare.com/forestry](http://blogs.msucare.com/forestry)

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[Click here](#) for the entire newsletter from the College of Forest Resources Extension Forestry.



# FORESTRY IN MISSISSIPPI

**\$10.38**

**BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY**

**63,365  
JOBS**

**Full-and part-  
time**

**\$3.95  
Billion**

**Value-added**

**\$2.63  
Billion**

**wages**

(Continued from page 2, Earth Day)

- ♻️ Sweep outside rather than using a hose.

#### Waste Tips

- ♻️ Buy and use only what you need.
- ♻️ Buy permanent items rather than disposable ones.
- ♻️ Use cloth napkins rather than paper ones.
- ♻️ Use a durable/travel mug for beverages.
- ♻️ Use reusable grocery bags when shopping. If you end up with plastic bags, reuse them as garbage bags.
- ♻️ Recycle paper, plastic, glass bottles, cardboard, and aluminum cans.

#### ♻️ Recycle electronics

These are just a few examples of what we can all do every day that add up to make a significant difference in the world. And Earth Day serves as our reminder to keep up the good work!

#### Earth Day Events

All over the nation, events are held in celebration and recognition of Earth Day. EarthDayNetwork (EDN) is a great resource if you're looking for programs and activities. You can search for programs, campaigns, and special events, or search for events by location.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency also offers a com-

prehensive list of events and volunteer opportunities for Earth Day enthusiasts.

Kids play a crucial role in Earth Day. The younger children recognize and participate in this important day, the longer of an impact they can have on the earth. If you have kids, be sure to research EarthDay.gov's fantastic page of sites designed for kids related to Earth Day.

So get out there and spread the word! Pick up garbage in your neighborhood or park. Think about planting a tree or flowers locally. Whatever you do, remember you can make all the difference in the world!



## Timber Theft

Following an investigation by the Secretary of State's Office, the Department of Agriculture, and the Mississippi Forestry Commission, 54-year-old Harold Edwin Simmons of Saucier, MS has pled guilty to three counts of felony timber theft.

Simmons was accused of stealing approximately \$250,000 worth of timber harvested from three separate 16<sup>th</sup> Section land sites in Pearl River County.

"Stealing \$250,000 worth of timber is literally taking money from our schoolchildren," says Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann. "With schools having to make do with less, that money could have gone toward education of our children. We want everyone to be on notice that stealing from our school children will not be tolerated."

As part of his plea agreement, Simmons will:

- Serve thirty (30) consecutive days in Pearl River County Jail;
- Serve forty-eight (48) weekends in Pearl River County Jail;
- Following his incarceration, Simmons will serve 1.5 years on house arrest;
- Following house arrest, Simmons will serve 2.5 years on

post-release supervision;

- Pay restitution in the amount of \$100,000 plus \$500/month for a total of \$126,000.00; and,
- Pay court costs and investigative fees in the amount of \$2,750.

"Timber theft is taken very seriously, and protecting our state's landowners from crimes such as this is important. I am very thankful for the cooperation between the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau and the other state agencies involved in this investigation," says Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith.

Timber theft is a growing problem across the State, accounting for over \$3,000,000 in losses in the last five years.

For additional information contact [Pamela Weaver](#), Director of Communications for Secretary of State, Delbert Hosemann.

Happy  
April Fool's Day!

# Thank You FOR YOUR HELP

My name is Carolyn Forister and I'm from Mobile, AL. Today, my mother, sister-in-law and I were on our way to the Jackson County Health Department when our front tire blew out. Mr. Hancock saw us on the side of the road and stopped to help us. He changed our tire, found us the closest Walmart so we could get a new tire.

He went so beyond the norm to help us out. We would like for you to know the great employee you have. He could have past us by but he did not. He is truly a blessing. Good folks like this are a true asset to a company. Thank you for your time but most of all thank you for employing such a great guy.

Carolyn Forister

Thank You  
for



All your Help  
- it means a lot!



Assuming it lives at least 50 years, a tree exhales 6,000 pounds of oxygen in its life, or about 120 pounds per year.





Dear Sirs:

As a Lauderdale County landowner, I want to express my deep gratitude to all involved for the Cogongrass Annihilation Program that was carried out here. I can say without any hesitation that this program has made a huge difference in the amount of cogongrass growing in Lauderdale County. In the past, no cogongrass was seen growing here. Then there came a time when this notorious plant showed itself. The following years after it was seen, cogongrass grew like wildfire. It was unbelievable how much it spread in such a short time! Then Michael Mathis and his crew were able to step in to try to kill this problem. The many infected areas I saw last year disappeared this year. I literally had to look for patches of cogongrass this past spring. There has been a radical change in its coverage. I definitely believe if this program had not been instituted when it was, Lauderdale County would be overrun by cogongrass--and to such an extent that it would have seemed an impossible task to get rid of it. I am a believer in this program and think that it would be ever so wise to continue the funding so as to try to completely annihilate this serious problem. Please consider the gravity of not being proactive in this situation. Cogongrass is like a disease that had reached the epidemic stage. Now it is at a point that it can be controlled if there is a committed plan to continue spraying the patches that remain.

Thank you for considering refunding this program!

Sincerely,

*Pam Burns*

# Safety First . . .

## Safety Is In Your Hands

When you think about workplace safety responsibilities, you probably think about all the regulations and all the requirements management puts in place to identify hazards and protect you and your co-workers. And it's true that management does have a big share in the responsibility for workplace safety. But you have a share of responsibility for safety on the job.

In return for the right to a safe workplace, certain specific responsibilities belong to you and your co-workers, including the responsibility to:

Follow workplace safety and health rules.

- ❏ Use assigned personal protective equipment (PPE).
- ❏ Participate in required safety training.
- ❏ Report hazardous conditions to management so they can take swift corrective action.
- ❏ Report job-related accidents, injuries, and illness to your supervisor and get medical attention.
- ❏ Take responsibility for learning everything you need to know about your job and work area so that you can always work safely.
- ❏ Avoid taking risks and engaging in any unsafe acts.
- ❏ Talk to your supervisor any time you have a question about your safety.
- ❏ Cooperate in all safety inspection and hazard analysis programs.
- ❏ Participate in safety committees/

- ❏ teams and other safety initiatives.
- ❏ Look for ways to make your job and the workplace safer; make suggestions about how to do that.

If we all do our share and take responsibility for our safety and the safety of all our co-workers, we can't fail in our mission to prevent accidents, injuries, and work-related illness. Sure, it's a big job, and we have to remain vigilant and strive every day to hunt down and eliminate hazards. But together we can do it! Won't you pitch in and join with your co-workers? We want you and your coworkers to succeed!

### *Are you doing your share for a safer workplace?*

#### SAFETY TIPS OF THE MONTH

To prevent slips, trips and falls follow these safety tips:

- ❏ First and foremost, watch where you're going.
- ❏ When using a ladder, start with a firm, solid surface. Inspect the ladder before and after every job. Follow the safety rules and warnings posted on the ladder.
- ❏ Place chains, guardrails, or warning tapes around elevated areas.
- ❏ When walking on a wet or slippery surface, slow down, take small steps, and keep a hand free for balance.

- ❏ Keep all aisles, stairs and walkways free of clutter.

#### Walk Smart

Out of all the deaths that occurred roadways in 2011, 1 out of every 5 was a pedestrian. And for every pedestrian killed, 15 more were injured.

Here are some things that you can do to be safe while you are walking:

- ❏ Cross only at crosswalks and intersections
- ❏ Do not step into a crosswalk in the path of a vehicle that appears to still be moving quickly, even though you may have the right of way.
- ❏ Use sidewalks. If there isn't a sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far off the edge of the road as possible.
- ❏ Carry a flashlight or other reflective item at night.
- ❏ Do not walk while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It's against the law. If you need to get home, you're safer catching a cab, bus or a ride from a friend.
- ❏ Never hitchhike
- ❏ Remember the age old instructions of looking left, right, then left again.

#### **YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS IS IN YOUR HANDS**

*First Time, Every Time*